Harold - hope you do not object. I felt this a necessity. Sylvia does not know you have a copy. HR.

2/10/72

Dear Sylvia,

I have a chance now to respond to your letter of the 8th. I hope you do not mind, but I'd like to ask that you keep this letter in confidence. Something in your letter troubled me and I'd like to address it as best as I can without violating the confidence of others.

First, let me say Bravo! to your idea for other submissions prior to my summer vacation, when I will presumably undertake the revision of my book. When it is convenient to you, I'd greatly appreciate your contacting either Bobbs Merrill or H*R*W. If you think I should, I'll independently write the particular editor a letter of my own. Tell me how you think the matter of submission should be approached. If you can just go ahead and contact these editors, please feel free to tell them that I do not regard the ms. now as the final draft, that I would welcome great revision and omission, and that my principle interest is in presenting a coherent case in Oswald's defense.

Your comments on Wecht's application to see the pix and X-rays concern me, though I've been pretty silent to this point for fear of breaking a rather large confidence with Harold. You apparently regard his fears as "outlandish and preposterous." "Truth must be told, though the heavens fall," you tell me. Sylvia, if Cyril gets in to see this material and makes the statement which will inevitably follow, "truth" will most likely be further raped by those who so consistently have violated her in their criminal lust. Have you thought about the position people like Hoover and Specter will be in when a competant, reliable medical authority announces that the autopsy films disprove the whole gov't story? These people will be forced to save their own skins, and they do have an out: The Kennedies. Who has the government put forth as the suppressers of the pix and X-rays? They tell us it was the grieved family. Let me tell you and, if you do not already know, then in strict confidence, the family did not suppress the films at any time during the existence of the WC. They did not even have them! True, they lent their name and, unfortunately, their honor to the govt's illegal effort at suppression, but I wonder if Bobby and, now, Teddy are aware of what transpired--and what it means. At any rate, what suppression they can be connected to occurred after the Report had long been in the public domain. I know beyond any doubt that they did not withhold this stuff from the WC, and all I can tell you is that you cannot imagine the guilt of the Commission members, the staff, Hoover, and especially, Specter.

So, if and when Cyril tells the world the truth about what the films show, the really guilty ones will inevitably defend themselves by trading on the Kennedies. It is not particularly a concern of mine that the Kennedies will be hurt, but it is a major concern that these slimey rats will have an ideal out which will involve a horrible bunch of lies and slanders. Furthermore, aside from what I consider moral and decent considerations, realistically speaking, I think Teddy will be put into his last political trap. He simply cannot come out and rebuke all these people: I think it is politically impossible for him.

You may think this extreme, but I do not put it out of consideration that the question of his own life is involved. He will be made politically impotent by this, and if he should find the manhood to escape what I view as an ugly trap, I wonder if he could survive it.

With these things in mind, and I don't think they are unreasonable fears, I cannot help but feel this is not the time for Wecht to see the films. He has made his request. Now I hope he is turned down. Also, a rejection of his request will make the government look bad, and it can work well in our favor. I can't see anything earthshaking coming out of Wecht's examination, and to tell the world the Report was wrong does not cancel, in my mind, the possible (inevitable?) political disasters to follow. Besides, I cannot conceive of any reasonable and informed person reacting the Report as anything but wrong.

I don't think this letter will immediately change your feelings, and I suspect you may object to my beliefs on moral grounds. I think, though, that we must realize the dis-honesty, unscrupulousness, and vested interests with which we are working. "Truth" will not turn things topsy-turvey or bring the guilty down to their knees in dishonor and ruin. These people will fight to survive and if their past behavior is any clue to their methods, need I say what could happen when they are faced with a really dire threat to their power and political survival? We simply have to consider these things and recognize just what we are dealing with.

Don't hesitate to argue. This needs more discussion than it has gotten, but we must be discrete, and, again, I remind you of my request for confidentiality.

Hope you are well.

Best wishes,